

HALL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MAY 3, 2005

The Hall County Board of Supervisors met May 3, 2005, by published call in the county board meeting room, 121 South Pine, Grand Island.

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pamela Lancaster.

INVOCATION - Invocation was given by Chairman Pamela Lancaster.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Pledge of Allegiance was given in unison.

ROLL CALL - Present on roll call were Scott Arnold, Jim Eriksen, Richard Hartman, Bob Humiston, Bud Jeffries, Pamela Lancaster and Robert Rye. Also present was a representative from the *Grand Island Independent* and Deputy County Attorney Michelle Oldham.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – Eriksen made a motion and Jeffries seconded to approve the following by consent agenda:

1. Accept and place on file the minutes from the April 19 meeting
2. Approve Tourism Proclamation #05-0015 for Month of May
3. 10 Authorize the Chair to sign the HIDTA contract award and sign the agreement
4. 13a accept and place on file the Keno audit for quarter ending December 31, 2004
5. 13b Accept and place on file the Hall County Audit for year ending June 30, 2004
6. 14 Accept and place on file the application for the County Industrial Tract and set the public hearing for May 31, 2005 at 9:30 a.m.
7. 15a Set a public hearing for approval of Planned Unit Development Final Development plan for Bellamy First Subdivision consisting of 5 lots for May 17, 2005 at 9:30 a.m.
8. 15b Accept and place on file communications from regional planning
9. 19 Accept and place on file the rider for the Hall County Treasurer's public depository bond
10. 20 Accept and place on file the resignation from Building & Ground/Parks Director Chuck Kaufman with regret
11. 24 Accept and place on file the Hall County Treasurer's Miscellaneous receipts
12. 25 Accept and place on file communications as received

Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

Chairman Lancaster recognized Troy Chandler and Chad Nabity as "Extra Ordinary People" from articles in the *Grand Island Independent*.

Chairman Lancaster called for public participation and no one responded.

County Clerk Marla Conley read the Tourism Proclamation

Renee Seifert with the Convention Visitors Bureau was present and thanked the board for the proclamation. She provided the board members with 2004 Calendar Year Report. She introduced her staff Trish Beem and Liz Gerberding and also the members of the advisory committee, Mike Swanson, Bruce Swihart, Nancy Smith, Dough Stange, corporate board members Bryan Gallagher, Tony Schultz, Bill Martin, Chuck Bosselman and Ray O'Connor. She also introduced Mary Jay Vavricek and Hugh Minor.

Ms. Seifert stated the tourism has a large impact on the community. She noted that in 2004 \$42,258,375.00 went into Hall County economy as a result of over night visitors, with the majority in Grand Island. Also 510,750 visitors were reported to have visited Grand Island area attractions.

She also noted that they have a new web site and from all indications it appears that they will have a very busy convention and meeting season. CVB is looking forward to the completion of the Heartland Events Center and the shooting park is also being developed. She reminded the board members of the CVB luncheon and stated that she is looking forward to next year.

6 DISCUSS AND AUTHORIZE CHAIR TO SIGN 125 CAFETERIA PLAN RENEWAL - Jeffries made a motion and Humiston seconded to authorize the Chair to sign the plan renewal. Eriksen requested discussion. He noted that to date the cafeteria plan has saved \$5,950.00 in FICA costs for the county, besides this is a great benefit to the employees. He would like to propose that the maximum on the unreimbursed medical be increased by 25% with a total of \$3,250.00 a year and he also would like to add the debit card to the plan. There would be an additional \$1.60 fee per plan participant for the use of the card but the FICA savings would still more than cover this cost.

Arnold noted that he participated in the City's cafeteria plan and if the card were added to the county plan he would change.

Jeffries questioned if the insurance committee met and Conley stated that they met April 1st and this was reviewed at that time and the committee agreed to include the debit card.

Jeffries amended his motion and Humiston seconded to include the debit card in the renewal and to increase the un-reimbursed medical to a maximum of \$3,250.00 Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

7 DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON AGREEMENT FOR PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES FOR DESIGNATED EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES – Eriksen stated that several years ago the position of County Superintendent was eliminated so the County entered into an agreement with Wood River School district to cover the additional educational activities for \$8,000.00. This was a two year agreement. The committee met with Larry Harnish superintendent of Wood River High School and he stated that he is willing to continue this contract but is only requesting \$6,000.00.

Eriksen made a motion and Arnold seconded to approve the new contract with Wood river School District from July 1, 2005 to June 2007 at \$6,000.00 a year.

Jeffries questioned what his duties are? Eriksen stated that they hold the county spelling bee and do research for retired teachers. The responsibilities are less. Jeffries

questioned why retired teachers could not hold the spelling bee. They do subcontract with them but there has to be a designated person to perform the duties.

The vote on the motion was taken. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

8 DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON BLOCK GRANT FOR 60TH ROAD – Eriksen stated that because of the proposed energy park that South Public Power District is developing on the east side of CAAP improvements will need to be made on 60th Road. These improvements were included in the 1 & 6 Year Road Program with the intention to look for other funding sources to do the project. Gary Hedman, CEO for SPPD, Cindy Johnson, President of the Chamber of Commerce and Marlon Ferguson President for the Economic Development Corporation have been working on a Community Development Block Grant application in the amount of \$235,000.00. The project consists of 2.5 miles of 24 foot wide and 7 inches deep asphalt paving on 60th Road with the total estimated cost of the paving at \$470,000.00. The proposed ethanol plant is scheduled to produce 100 million gallons of ethanol and represents \$135 million investment. This is a large project and will be a big boost to the Village of Alda. They are also doing a blighted and substandard study for Alda that will include the entire community.

Jeffries made a motion and Arnold seconded to authorize the Chair to sign the grant application.

Hartman questioned where the money for the \$235,000.00 matching funds for the paving will come from? Gary Hedman stated that SPPD will not be able to write a check for the paving and he understands how sensitive the road issues are, but if this plant is build it will generate revenue for the county.

The vote on the motion was taken. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

9. DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON APPOINTMENT TO HALL COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – The Housing Authority board has one vacancy and two board position that need to be filled. They all expire on June 30, 2005. Mary Livingston and Anita Graf would like to serve another term bus resident Karen Duff has resigned. A notice requesting volunteers was posted and Elaine Spelts has expressed an interest.

Jeffries made a motion and Eriksen seconded to reappoint Anita Graff and Mary Livingston and to appoint Elaine Spelts to fill the vacancy. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

11 SET PUBLIC HEARING TO DISUCSS ADDITIONAL 2% LODGING TAX – This hearing would be to establish a County Visitor's Improvement Fund and asses an additional 2% lodging tax to assist with the completion of the Heartland Events Center.

Jeffries made a motion and Eriksen seconded to set the public hearing for the County Visitor Improvement Fund for May 17, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. Hartman questioned what a motel in Wood River would gain from this additional tax. When the Events Center is completed it will be an advantage to the entire community. Arnold stated that this is a public haring and if there are concerns they can discuss them at that time.

The vote on the motion was taken. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

12. HANDI BUS AGREEMENT A DISCUSS & APPROVE GRANT APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION OPERATING ASSISTANCE – Lois Steinke and Lora Razey were present. This grant application addresses the cost of operating the buses. It was higher because of the need to add an extra bus to run in the morning at 7:00 a.m. Now they have a waiting list for the early bus. The buses are also used in Cairo, Doniphan and Wood River. The total amount this year is \$86,993.00 and the request last year was for \$54,473.00. They are requesting additional for this year because of a shortfall last year. Lois stated that the number of passengers has increased and they will need another driver. They still only charge \$.50 per ticket.

12a Hartman made a motion and Jeffries seconded to approve the grant application for the public transportation operating assistance. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

Lancaster stated that there is a transportation study being done in Grand Island and they are looking for funding. There is also talk about federal legislation that would make some agencies exempt from the gas tax which would be a big help to operation of the handi buses.

12b DISCUSS AND APPROVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN HALL COUNTY SENIOR CITIZENS INDUSTRIES AND COMSTOCK CORPORATION FOR ADDITIONAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES –This is the agreement with the cab company for their services. Jeffries made a motion and Hartman seconded to approve the agreement between Senior Citizens and Comstock Corporation. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

12c DISCUSS AND APPROVE SUBGRANTEE AGREEMENT BETWEEN COUNTY OF HALL AND SENIOR CITIZENS INDUSTRIES FOR FUNDING – Hartman made a motion and Eriksen seconded to approve the sub grantee agreement. Arnold, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no with Eriksen absent for the vote. Motion carried.

Greg Baxter 1723 Bridle Lane, With T & E Cattle Company questioned item 8 on the agenda regarding the block grant for 60th Road. He questioned why there was not an opportunity for public comment. He is concerned that this paving will increase his taxes and questioned if he would be assessed the cost of paving this road. Arnold stated that this would increase the value of his property and should not raise his taxes.

16 COMMENCE AUDIT OF BI WEEKLY PAY CLAIMS AND ACTION ON CLAIM AUDIT Jeffries made a motion and Hartman seconded to approve the bi weekly pay claims. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

17 AUDIT COMMITTEE AUTHORIZE REQUEST TO WAIVE INTEREST ON PAYMENT FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO 2001-1 AMICK ACRES –A letter from Mr. Snow was in the board's packets requesting the county to waive the \$77.61 interest on paving assessment. This was discussed at the audit committee. County Clerk Marla Conley explained that this street improvement district was formed in 2001 and the assessments were not approved until 2004. When the notices were sent out, Mr. Snow received the notice of the assessment but not the notice when the payment was due.

She failed to include it when it was mailed. Jeffries made a motion and Arnold seconded to waive the interest on the paving assessment. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

18 DISCUSS REQUEST FOR ENDORSEMENT TO ESTABLISH NEBRASKA USED OIL COLLECTION PROGRAM IN HALL COUNTY – Eriksen stated that he would like to table this item until he has additional information. The County looked at this three years ago and did not want to participate. Betty Curtis with Clean Community Systems has some concerns and would like to talk to the State and to Aurora Coop. Eriksen made a motion and Jeffries seconded to table this item and come back in two weeks. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER'S REPORTS - Hartman – no report

Humiston – He attended the economic development meeting, audit committee meeting and the weed board meeting.

Eriksen – He attended the NRD meeting and they discussed the agreements regarding the moratoriums. It was decided they will be based on the co-high study. Any well drilling restrictions will be based on a 40 year 28% usage rather than a 20 year usage.

Rye – He attended the computer committee meeting, audit committee meeting and a library facility meeting. They interviewed the finalists for the library construction and will make a selection from the top three.

Jeffries – He attended the stakeholders meeting for the NRD. There are a wide range of participants and the number of members will be reduced to 8 or 12 people. The public works committee met and discussed the road and bridge projects.

Arnold – He attended the juvenile committee meeting and Mr. Chandler informed them that the grant for the juvenile intake officer has been approved but the funding has been cut so there will be a \$16,000.00 shortfall. They are looking for additional dollars to help with the funding.

Lancaster – She stated most of her meeting were reported on. She will have a merit commission meeting today. She attended a meeting at College Park and they are reaching their enrollment goal 1 year ahead of time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Lancaster stated that the classification committee met regarding two issues. The first issue is regarding the computer department. Josh Ellis was hired as a PC technician but his duties changed when the county took over the wireless network. Doug Drudik presented information regarding the cost savings that have been experienced since the county has done this. They have a new job description and are requesting that he be classified as a wireless system engineer. He is an expert on the wireless network and it is important to maintain this in house. The committee approved the job description and placed him on range 30 step 4. Jeffries questioned why step 4 and Doug stated that on the current list of ranges that was the closest range that would fit. This job did not exist when the salary classification survey was done.

County Attorney Mark Young thanked Doug and Josh for the excellent work that they are doing. He also commented that Doug served as an expert witness on a case they tried.

The second issue is regarding the County Attorney's Office with the changes in the duties for some of the attorneys Mr. Young is requesting to flatten out the pay scales and also to be able to address the performance and duties of some of the attorneys. He stated that now some of the public defenders are higher than his attorneys. There are additional dollars in the budget from the attorney salary line item when Michelle moved to chief deputy.

21 EXECUTIVE SESSION REAL ESTATE NEGOTIATIONS

22 EXECUTIVE SESSION UNION NEGOTIATIONS – Rye made a motion and Eriksen seconded to go into both executive sessions. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

11:53 a.m. union negotiations

12:26 p.m. went out of union negotiations

12:27 p.m. went into real estate negotiations

12:46 p.m. Jeffries made a motion and Arnold seconded to go out of executive session. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

Conducted the quarterly jail tour. Members present were Arnold, Eriksen, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye. Hartman was absent.

Meeting adjourned after completion of the jail tour. The next meeting will be May 17, 2005.

Marla J. Conley, Hall County Clerk